



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Village of Fairport's Lift Bridge Turning 100 Years Old 1914-2014

Lift Bridge Centennial Celebration and Re-Dedication Event Will Be Held August 15th at 6:30 p.m.

FAIRPORT, NEW YORK (August 11, 2014)—The Village of Fairport is celebrating the centennial anniversary of its historic Lift Bridge this year. The Lift Bridge, located at 128 Main Street in Fairport, crosses the Erie Canal and is an iconic centerpiece of the Village's landscape.

"Of the over 300 bridges on the Erie Canal, the Fairport Lift Bridge is far and away the most beautiful and unique," said Thomas X. Grasso, president of the Canal Society of New York State. "This singularity stems from her stunning and sleek design, understated elegance, and brilliance of her heart and soul - the hidden magical things that make her function and make her who she is - the sparkling Queen of Canal Bridges. We joyously celebrate her 100 years of giving to community and canal alike."

The Fairport Lift Bridge was part of Erie Barge Canal Contract #63, awarded to H.S. Kerbaugh, Inc. of Philadelphia in 1910. There were seventeen bridges included in the contract, however the bridge in Fairport was the only lift bridge **and the only one on the canal system without any 90-degree angles in the structure**. The Lift Bridge was completed in 1914 and cost \$75,000 to replace a fixed bridge that was only 28 years old but much too short to span the newly widened Erie Canal.

The steel Lift Bridge weighs 346 tons and is the heaviest of the sixteen lift bridges between Fairport and Lockport. It takes about 90 seconds for the Fairport Lift Bridge to raise or lower its 10' 7" travel distance.

"The Village of Fairport has long served as a living example of the Erie Canal's role as a national treasure and economic engine," said Canal Corporation Director Brian U. Stratton. "Today, as the structures of the Barge Canal near a century of service, we celebrate a feature that has made Fairport one of New York's premier canal destinations. With every lift of this venerable bridge, we salute New York's achievement, and manifest our continued commitment to operating, maintaining, and preserving this singularly priceless asset for generations to come."

To commemorate the anniversary celebration, a series of public events will take place throughout the Village of Fairport:

- **Lift Bridge Centennial Celebration & Re-Dedication**
August 15th at 6:30 p.m. on the Lift Bridge
"From Model T to Tesla" – re-enact the first motorized vehicle traveling across the Lift Bridge in 1914 and commemorate the lift bridge dedication on August 15, 1914; reading Village Proclamation
First tasting of Fairport Brewing Company's "Scum Jumper Lager" – 99 South Main Street
- **Fairport Historical Society's Traveling Museum Exhibit:**
On display in August at the Fairport Public Library at Village Landing. Featuring vintage newspaper articles and photographs.
- **Presentation – Fairport's Lift Bridge, by Bill Poray, Historian**
Fairport Historical Museum, September 16, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.
- **Historical Society's House Tour**
Sunday October 5, 2014—Highlighting Roselawn Avenue near the Erie Canal

Kevin Clark, Fairport deputy mayor, and OCED chairman said, "Fairport was born and nourished on the lifeblood of the Erie Canal. From those early days of commerce to today's emphasis on recreation and tourism, the Canal continues to characterize the essence of our thriving Village. The Lift Bridge has played a significant role in the history and growth of Fairport, and we are proud to celebrate this treasured landmark's 100-year anniversary."

"The bridge is working. Long live the bridge." ---*Fairport Herald*, 1914

For more information or to access approved images, contact the Office of Community + Economic Development at (585) 421-3240 or log on to www.fairportoced.org.

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